

## WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:

- 5           determining block boundaries;
- determining an approximate metric of artifact visibility;
- adaptively filtering luminance;
- adaptively adjusting local saturation variation;
- adaptively simulating high spatial frequency image detail;

10   wherein the adaptive steps are executed to a degree or an amount dependent on the metric of artifact severity.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein prior to adaptively filtering luminance, luminance values are interpolated across block boundaries

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein in conjunction with adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein in conjunction with adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.

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5. A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:

- determining block boundaries;
- 25       determining an approximate metric of artifact visibility;
- adaptively filtering luminance with a filter;
- adaptively increasing local chrominance contrast;
- adaptively simulating high frequency image detail by means of sharpening and addition of noise;

30   wherein the adaptive steps are executed to degree that depends on the metric of artifact visibility.

15. A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the step of selecting a median filter window based on an assessment of a pixel value according to a variance of a binary mask.

5 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the pixel value comprises luminance texture.

17. A method of reducing artifacts in an image comprising the step of selecting a median filter window based on an assessment of a pixel value according to a variance of a binary mask.

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18. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 1.

15 19. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 2.

20. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 5.

20 21. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 8.

22. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 10.

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23. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 15.

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